

Army Acquisition Reform Newsletter



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COSSI SUCCESS STORY FOR ARMY AVIATION

The Switchable Eyesafe Laser Rangefinder/Designator (SELRD) upgrade for the Kiowa Warrior and Apache Helicopter was developed by Kollsman, Inc. as a cost sharing under the Commercial Operating & Support Savings Initiative (COSSI) Program. By leveraging the design of common modules from the Comanche, significant cost savings were realized in the development phase. The SELRD upgrade design achieves a high degree of commonality in the Comanche, the Kiowa Warrior and Apache laser designs. Leveraging the production buys of common modules and components across platform applications will generate significant savings in the average unit production price of the laser through efficiencies gained in production and in lower component costs from suppliers.

More significant savings will be generated through reduced Operating and Support (O&S) costs in modernizing the aging laser designators in the OH-58-D Kiowa and the AH-64A/D Apache Attack Helicopter. The laser designators in both systems are suffering from poor reliability and severe parts obsolescence. The COSSI Program qualified the Laser Diode Stacks to meet the Comanche Laser and Kiowa Warrior/Apache SELRD laser specifications. The Kiowa Warrior SELRD specification for MTBF is 5000 hours - an improvement of more than 15x over the existing lasers' MTBF performance. The AMCOM Value Engineering group estimated the SELRD upgrade would generate over \$100M in (O&S) savings in ten years. Even greater savings were estimated for the Apache SELRD Program (over \$130M).

The AMCOM Modernization Through Spares (MTS) office endorsed the COSSI Apache SELRD Program and committed to initial Stage II Production funding for the laser. More rapid O&S savings would be achieved if sufficient funding is available to include the SELRD in the Apache TADS/PNVIS Modernization Program.

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